

Message Text

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51

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 DRC-01 SWF-02 EB-11 COME-00

OMB-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 CU-05 L-03 /135 W

----- 069938

R 190920Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6569

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

UNCLAS COTONOU 1460

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, DM, US, EEC

SUBJ: ENTENTE LIVESTOCK LOAN

REF A. NIAMEY 3076 B. STATE 196830 C. BARSON-CHESHES CONVER-
SATION 10 SEPT

1. FYI: MICHAEL HOUNDJE, MRGD DIR OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION, LEAVING
COTONOU 18 SEPT FOR IV LEADER GRANT TOUR OF US. HE IS DIRECT
SUPERIOR OF DIR OF ELEVAGE, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF SUBJECT PROJECT.
END FYI.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFFS BEFORE LEAVING, HOUNDJE SEEMED
COOL TO IDEA (FIRST SUGGESTED BY RDO NIAMEY IN REFCON) THAT
MRGD AGREE TO SWITCH IN PROJECTS BETWEEN OKPAZA RANCH AND CATTLE
TRAILS. UNDER RDO'S PROPOSAL, AID WOULD TAKE OVER CATTLE
TRAILS AND RED WOULD TAKE OVER AID PART OF RANCH PRLJECT.
HOUNDJE'S OBJECTIONS WERE TWOFOLD: (A) AID WOULD BE SAVING HUGE
SUM OF MONEY ALREADY PROMISED DAHOMEY SINCE ITS SHARE OF OKPARA
IS 200 MILLION CFA VERSUS 20 MILLION CFA TOTAL COST FOR
CATTLE TRAILS, AND (B) FED PARTICIPATION ON INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
OKPARA IS CONTINGENT ON AID PARTICIPATION -- THUS, AID CANNOT
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PULL OUT AND EXPECT FED TO PICK UP ENTIRE BILL (DIR OF ELEVAGE

HOUNTONDJI NOW IN BRUSSELS DISCUSSING OKPARA PROJECT WITH FED. POST AWAITING HIS RETURN TO FULLY DISCUSS MATTER OF POSSIBLE DEOBLIGATION FUNDS IF THEY NOT USED QUICKLY).

3. POST HERE FEELS AID/W HAS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO STATE ITS CURRENT POSITION RE LOAN DEOBLIGATION TO MRGD OFFICIAL BY CONTACTING MR HOUNDJE DURING HIS STATESIDE VISIT. WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST CU/AF AND AA/AFR/CWR COORDINATE TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS FOR MR HOUNDJE WITH APPROPRIATE AID/W OFFICIALS.

4. MR HOUNDJE ALSO MENTIONED THAT SUCH TALKS IN WASHINGTON MIGHT DEPEND LARGELY ON PROGRESS CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ON OKPARA IN BRUSSELS. THEREFORE, ASK THAT US MISSION EC FORWARD TO AID/W ANY INFO AVAILABLE ON CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS (INFO ADDRESSEES THIS MESSAGE). WE WILL ALSO MAKE REPORT AFTER RETURN OF ELEVAGE DIR ON DAHOMEAN VIEW OF NEGOTIATIONS.

5. FOR NIAMEY: ARE HOUNDJE'S ESTIMATES OF COSTS DIFFERENCES FOR TWO PROJECTS ACCURATE? IF SO, WHAT OTHER WAY EXISTS TO UTILIZE REMAINING ENTENTE COUNCIL FUNDS?
CHESHES

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